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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: John WALTERS et al.

Appl. No.: 09/319,438 Group: 1732

Filed: June 7, 1999 Examiner: UNASSIGNED

For: NON-WOVEN INORGANIC FIBRE MAT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(SUBMISSION AFTER FILING OF AN APPLICATION
BUT BEFORE FINAL REJECTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE
OR CONCURRENTLY WITH A RULE 53(d) CPA APPLICATION)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

March 1, 2000

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on the PTO-1449(s), attached hereto.

II. COPIES (check at least one box)

a. Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

b. Some or all of the documents listed on the PTO-1449 are not enclosed because they were cited in the International Search Report and copies should already be in the PTO file. If copies are needed, please contact the undersigned.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE
(check at least one box)

a. **DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

The attached patents, publications, or other information in the English language do not require a statement of relevancy.

b. **DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

c. **ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT**

An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(A)(3).

d. **OTHER**

The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

U.S. Patent 4,445,517 discloses a mat composed of loose glass fibers having a density rather than a substance (mass/unit area), which varies across the mat. The mat of the reference has edges which are denser than the rest of the mat, whereas the substance of the margins of the mat of claim 1 is lower than the remainder to the mat. This reflects the different function of the variable density matter of the reference. The reference also discloses a method and apparatus in which variation of the density of the glass fiber matter is achieved by compression of particular regions of the mat.

GB 2,225,597 is cited in combination with the previous reference as being of particular relevance to the method and board claims. The reference discloses scattering of liquid slurry to form a layer board comprising layers of gypsum and fiber, the middle layer also containing aggregate. This is apparently achieved by a process which relies on the fact that the water saturated aggregate particles are of a different weight to the other components.

FR 2,504,957 is equivalent to GB 2,097,837 and discloses builders components based on at least one side by a fiber sheet embedded near the surface.

FR 981,384 discloses a gypsum fiber board, the edges of which are denser than the middle.

JP 03279456 discloses the manufacture of a fibrous mat by deposition of material onto a conveyor from several sources across the conveyer.

EP 0579007 appears to disclose a non-woven fiber mesh for reinforcing plaster. The mesh has spacer strips attached to it by which the substance could be said to be varied across the mesh.

DE 19507040 discloses a plaster reinforcing mat consisting of three layers.

GB 2053779 discloses plaster board in which a glass tissue is embedded immediately below the surface of the board.



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FEES

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b):
(check one box)

- a. within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or statement is required.
- b. within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or statement is required.
- c. before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or statement is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no statement has been made, charge our deposit account in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2)).

- a. No statement; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
or
- b. See the statement below. No fee is required.

VI. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby states that

- a. each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

b. no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

c. Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned states that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby states that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check one box)

A check in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for the above-indicated fee. A triplicate copy of this paper is attached.

No fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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JMS/PCL/glh
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Enclosures: PTO-1449
 Documents
 Foreign Search Report
 Fee
 Other:

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